

Austin Community-Owned Food Retail Initiative

The Austin Community-Owned Food Retail Initiative is an effort to open a new community-owned grocery store in an Austin neighborhood lacking access to healthy food retail options. This project is funded by \$500,000 from Austin's allocation from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Three Step Plan

1. Engage residents to gauge interest and support
2. Develop a business plan for the community grocery store
3. Open a small-scale model to test the grocery store concept

The City of Austin will hire a skilled third-party administrator to assist with the Austin Community-Owned Food Retail Initiative.

Phase I: Organizing and Development (Spring 2022 - Fall 2023)

- Community engagement and organizing
- Business planning and feasibility studying
- Store planning (e.g., location, format, structure)
- Steering Committee and Member Cohort development

Phase I: Critical Milestones

- Steering Committee has seven to nine members
- Member Cohort has at least 300 households
- Business plan and feasibility study proves the store will be sustainable

Phase II: Pilot Operations (Fall 2023 - Winter 2024)

- Provide seed funding
- Launch pilot operations
- Ongoing assistance and support



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